



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1339

January Session, 2005

* SB01339HS 051705 *

AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is created an Early
2 Childhood Education Cabinet. The cabinet shall consist of the
3 Commissioners of Education, Social Services, Public Health, Children
4 and Families and Mental Retardation, or their designees, two persons
5 representing a local or regional school readiness council appointed by
6 the Governor, and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
7 Management, or the secretary's designee. The cabinet shall advise the
8 Governor on matters relating to school readiness programs.

9 (b) Within available appropriations, the Early Childhood Education
10 Cabinet shall advise the Commissioner of Education on policies and
11 initiatives to meet the goals established in section 10-160 of the general
12 statutes.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There is created a State-Wide
14 Early Childhood Pilot Program. The Department of Education shall,
15 within available appropriations, maintain a competitive grant program
16 for the purpose of assisting local and regional boards of education that
17 serve towns ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in
18 ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision
19 (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes, regional educational
20 service centers, family resource centers, providers of child day care

21 services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, Head
22 Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet the
23 standards established by the Commissioner of Education for new
24 school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-16p of the general
25 statutes.

26 (b) Applicants for grants provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this
27 section shall apply annually to the Commissioner of Education at such
28 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. In
29 determining whether to award an applicant a grant, the commissioner,
30 in consultation with the Early Childhood Education Cabinet
31 established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall consider, but not be
32 limited to, the following factors: (1) The specific objectives and
33 description of the proposed program; (2) the cost of the proposed
34 program; (3) the number of children who will benefit; (4) the relative
35 wealth of the municipality in which the program will be located; and
36 (5) whether the proposed program is likely to (A) increase student
37 achievement, and (B) reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation.

38 (c) Any applicant awarded a grant pursuant to this section shall use
39 preschool curriculum guidelines adopted by the State Board of
40 Education in its program.

41 (d) In no case shall an award made pursuant to this section, when
42 calculated on a per pupil basis, exceed the maximum per child cost of
43 the Department of Education school readiness component pursuant to
44 subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the general statutes, as amended by
45 this act.

46 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the general statutes is
47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
48 *1, 2005*):

49 (b) [The] (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child
50 cost of the Department of Education school readiness component of
51 the program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six
52 thousand [four hundred] six hundred fifty dollars.

53 (2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
 54 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of Education school
 55 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness
 56 provider shall not exceed six thousand nine hundred twenty-five
 57 dollars.

58 (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care services
 59 and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject to such
 60 per child cost limitation.

61 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,
 62 the Commissioner of Education may award grants of up to three
 63 thousand dollars to existing employees of a school readiness program
 64 for the purpose of earning an associate degree in child development.
 65 The commissioner, in consultation with the Early Childhood
 66 Education Cabinet established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall
 67 develop criteria for the awarding of such grants.

68 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Within available appropriations,
 69 the Commissioner of Education shall provide technical assistance and
 70 training to school readiness programs to assist in the application of
 71 preschool curriculum guidelines adopted by the State Board of
 72 Education.

73 Sec. 6. Section 10-14n of the general statutes is amended by adding
 74 subsection (h) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

75 (NEW) (h) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of
 76 Education shall, not later than October 1, 2009, develop a state-wide
 77 developmentally appropriate kindergarten assessment tool that
 78 measures a child's level of preparedness for kindergarten.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | 10-16q(b) |

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| Sec. 4 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | New section |
| Sec. 5 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | New section |
| Sec. 6 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | 10-14n |

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* APP

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

HS *Joint Favorable*